

The Spirit

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NEW SGA OFFICERS ELECTED

By Christina Ament

The electorate has spoken. A new slate of Student Government officers has been elected and is ready to begin work on planning programs for the 2007-2008 school year.

The newly elected officers are: Adam Mace, president; Mike Barthelemy, vice-president; Carelle Cherebin, treasurer and Nick Souleotis, secretary.

Three of the four new officers have prior experience in student government. Adam Mace is the outgoing director of CAB, Mike Barthelemy was last year's Junior Class Representative, and Carelle Cherebin is currently serving as the Sophomore Class Representative.

The newcomer to student government, Nick Souleotis, is only a freshman but has already demonstrated his leadership skills as co-editor in chief of *Calliope: A Journal of the Literary Arts*.

All the individual races were

closely contested with just under 250 students casting ballots during the two day election period which ran from March 10-11. The elections were conducted in the cafeteria.

Junior Schaeffer Charles, unsuccessful in his bid for the presidency, has been named Parliamentarian to the Student Government and will make sure that proceedings and protocols are properly conducted.

The Student Government is the voice of the collective student body at St. Joseph's College. Their function is to plan programs that are inclusive for the entire student population of the school and that can provide concrete benefits to the college and its community.

At regular senate meeting and club president meetings, the Student Government has the opportunity to meet with other campus leaders and representatives, vote on issues of import to

the school, and suggest innovative and creative ways that life can improve for all who attend St. Joseph's.

"As a freshman, I was very surprised, shocked even, that I won the election for secretary," said Nick Souleotis, "but now that

I have the position, I will work very hard to listen to the students at SJC and make their wishes for the school realities whenever that is possible," he added.

One of the first things the Student Government will become involved in is planning back-to-school activities such as Orientation, Club Fair and the Freshman Barbecue. These activities are designed to involve incoming students from day one in the numerous extracurricular offerings at St. Joseph's.

The Student Government is also responsible for handling a very large activities budge and distributing those funds to each campus activity.



Adam Mace, Carelle Cherebin, Nick Souleotis

VALEDICTORIAN CHOSEN FOR CLASS OF '07

By Marsha Desrosiers

The choice has been made and the Class of 2007 has selected as its valedictorian, Meghan Ring. Based upon her qualifications, it is clear why the Ad Hoc Committee for the selection of the valedictorian made an outstanding choice.

After members of the senior class nominated four candidates for the honor, each had to appear before the committee which consisted of S. Margaret Buckley, Dr. Susan Hudec, Sherrie VanArnam, two faculty members, the president of the Student Government and the Senior Class Representative.

In Meghan Ring, the committee found someone who they felt epitomized the characteristics that a valedictorian should possess.

First, consider her academic qualifications. Meghan carries a 3.91 cumulative index with a major in Speech Communication and a minor in theater.

She has been a member of the Honors Program since her freshman year at St. Joseph's College.

Her academic achievements have led to her election to Sigma Iota Chi and Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Societies.

But though she is a Speech major, Meghan has decided to follow a different road with her life. She plans on

entering nursing school, either at

Beth Israel School of Nursing or Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing.

In two years time, she will have earned her R.N. and begin practice. But Meghan has larger plans than that. She hopes to continue her education and ultimately become a Nurse Practitioner, a position roughly equivalent to a Physician Assistant.

She has also created an impressive resume of extracurricular activities at St. Joe's. She has been the vice-president of the Gaelic Society for the last two years; she has also been the co-president of the Speech Club for the past two years.

She was a Peer Counselor and Orientation Leader for three years and a Peer Tutor for one year.

That's just her on-campus work. Off campus, Meghan has been equally impressive. She has done community service participating in New York Cares projects, and she was the recipient of the New York State Medal of Honor for Living Organ Donors.

A word or two on that remarkable achievement. In 2005, Meghan's mother was in desperate need of a kidney transplant. In August of that year, Meghan willingly agreed to donate one of her own kidneys to save her mother's

life.

She is pleased to report that both she and her mother have fully recovered and are doing wonderfully after the extensive surgery.

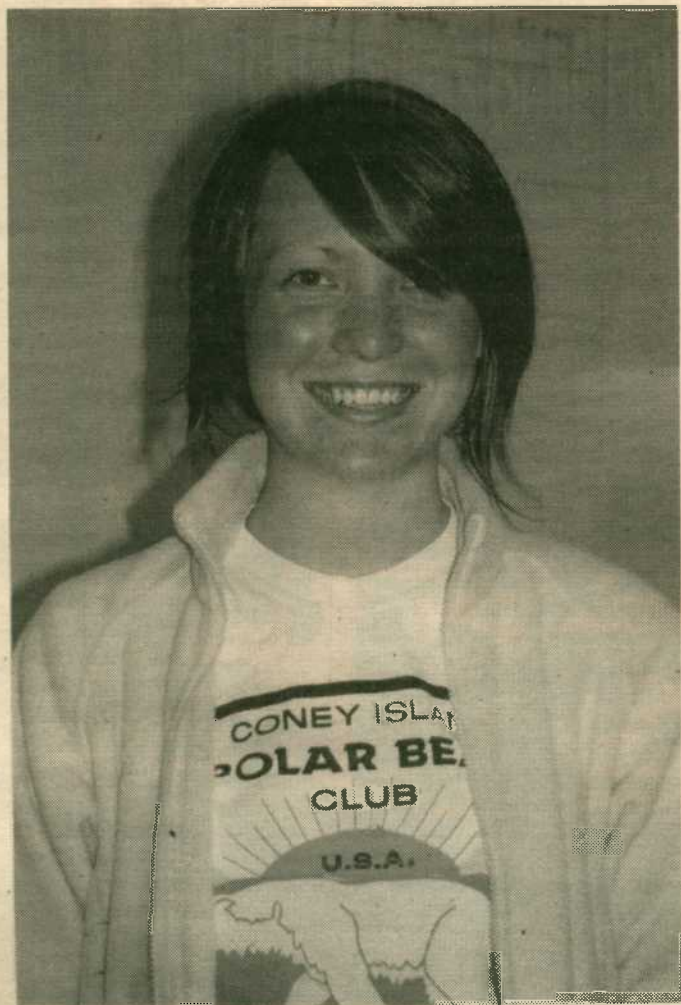
Her life-long interest in theater has lead to her being a member of the St. Simon and Jude Theater Guild, having appeared in many of that community theater group's productions.

As for her valediction, immediately upon her selection, Meghan started thinking about what she wanted to say to her classmates.

"I would like to talk about the unpredictable nature of life—that sometimes the unexpected comes your way and you have to make quick decisions that can be life-altering," said Meghan. "In light of what has happened to my mom and myself, I think there is a good lesson in the experience."

And as for the speech itself, one would think that a Speech major would find making a valedictory address a piece of cake. Not exactly.

"When I heard the news, I was very excited—but definitely nervous about speaking in front of all my classmates and parents and friends, but I feel that I have some interesting things to say and will enjoy making the speech," she said.



Class of 2007 Valedictorian Meghan Ring

EDITORIAL

Gay & Lesbian Marriage: Is there a Problem?

It is difficult to pick up a newspaper today without seeing something about marriage—the Defense of Marriage Act, Gay marriage, constitutional amendments and on and on. Everyone seems to have weighed in on the subject: the religious right, the religious left, the unreligious center, the Dems, the GOP—you name it, someone's got an opinion.

Think about this. John F. Kennedy once said, "This nation was founded by men of many nations and backgrounds. It was founded on the principle that all men are created equal, and that the rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened." Few would argue with these words, but are they true when they concern marriage in America?

After all, what is marriage. How does one define marriage. What is the essence of the marital union? These are questions that one would expect to hear in a sociology or theology class; however, these questions or some variation have appeared on the political stage since the 1970s.

The issue is whether or not gay men and lesbians should be entitled to the same legal rights as married heterosexual couples. Essentially, the issue is over civil rights and whether the current definition of marriage infringes upon the civil rights of gay men and women, and whether a constitutional amendment is needed to protect the sanctity of marriage.

Katherine Spaht, a LSU law professor who presented testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in regards to a constitutional gay marriage amendment, argues that an amendment banning gay marriage is necessary to protect the traditional definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman.

Ah tradition! Let's look at some other forms of tradition: traditional southern attitudes towards blacks are racist. Traditional practices of determining who attends the elite institutions of higher education are discriminatory. Traditional United States history neglects U.S. imperialism and intervention around the globe and the genocide of Native Americans.

Is traditional necessarily better? We would argue to the contrary.

Granted, until recently, no government recognized gay marriages, but does that mean that we should never recognize them at the present or in the future? To this, we offer a resounding, "No!" Slavery was the norm for centuries, but did that make slavery any less of an injustice? Again, we loudly say, "No!"

Reverend Richard Richardson and Pastor Daniel de Leon stated that the purpose of marriage is children, and that discrimination is not an issue when speaking of marriage. Are they oblivious to the world around them? Not all heterosexual married couples have children. Moreover, there is no hard evidence to support the assertion that children raised in a heterosexual household will be any better off than children raised in a homosexual household.

Marriage is used as a way of keeping homosexuals from raising children. Why? Well, listen to Rev. Jerry Falwell's answer to the question: "I say to gays and lesbians, regardless of how you get children, while showing love is a good thing, and sharing what you are and have with other people is a good thing, the lifestyle you're living is so reprehensible, so wrong...quite likely, because you're their role model, a higher percentage of your children will violate God's law and will themselves be gay and lesbian. Therefore you shouldn't bring unborn, defenseless children into that context where they become victimized by it."

Marriage is supposed to be a union between two people who love and respect each other and who wish to spend the rest of their lives together, with or without children. Without marriage, such couples are denied sick leave to care for a partner, joint adoption, insurance breaks, Social Security survivor benefits, and making medical choices for each other. Why should this be?

What's in a name? If marriage is the name, then equal rights and protection under the law is the answer.

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Tara Talk

By Tara Vafiadou

AT THE CORE OF A SOLID EDUCATION

"Core Curriculum classes- why do I have to take them? I know what major I'm interested in." This is a common phrase we have all heard among college students. Some feel that since they know what area interests them, they should not be required to take all of those core curriculum courses.

What do you, as a college student, aspire to be after graduation? Some people know from their very first step into college what career path will best fit them. Others haven't the slightest clue.

Then there are some students who know what they want to do, but then they get to college classes and reality sets in for them. These students dream of becoming doctors from the time they are young to the end of high school. They work toward this goal. When they reach college they are still determined to be a doctor. Then they take Organic Chemistry. So much for the dream! Science turns out being something that they never dreamed it could be—it's hard and it's just not for them.

What to do now? This is exactly why Liberal Arts Education is one of the best plans colleges have instituted.

Liberal Arts Education introduces students to numerous academic disciplines in hopes that a spark will be ignited. Liberal Arts does not have so much of an influ-

ence over choosing a major as it does with guiding students in finding an area of interest.

The advantage of having multi-interest areas as a core curriculum serves as a benefit for all students, regardless of whether or not the student has an intended major.

Liberal Arts courses allow students to experience a little taste of each subject. There are courses that cover all fields such as English, Science, Mathematics, Religion/Philosophy, History, Art, and Music. From this, students have the opportunity to really learn about all academic areas. They may pick and choose which disciplines they would like to concentrate on in their college careers.

By Sophomore year, St. Joseph's asks students to declare a major. There are determined students who know from day one what they plan to major in. They choose their major based on a subject of interest, while others choose a major where they excel, not necessarily because it is their favorite subject.

Sometimes, students will change their major and concentration several times as an undergraduate.

After speaking with numerous upperclassmen on campus, a surprising majority of the people I met had changed their mind from their original major. A junior here at St. Joseph's

went from being a Business Major to Biology, then to Chemistry, and is now debating whether Psychology is the career for him. Another student in his senior year, decided to combine his interest in Business and Accounting, to become a double major.

These are examples where the advantage of a Liberal Arts Education is evident. Liberal Arts Education creates well-rounded individuals. I believe that no matter what a person's intended major is, knowledge in all areas will definitely serve as an asset to that person in their future. An individual will make use of a broad range of knowledge, no matter what field he chooses to work in. It also helps to create a humanistic person.

Think of it this way: as a parent you wouldn't think to serve your child only cookies for dinner. Undoubtedly, they are delicious but in no way are they nutritional. You would want to cook a balanced meal which would benefit the child and teach him the value of that balance. In the same way, a Liberal Arts Education is beneficial because it creates a well-rounded individual- who is conversant in a number of areas, not just one.

So next time you feel like grumbling about taking an Art History course or Music Appreciation course, think of it as your educational broccoli; it's not ice cream, but it will do you a world of good!

**"The Spirit"
Congratulates the Members
of the Graduating Class of 2007
on a Job Well Done!**

SJC Gets a Fraternity at Last

Beta Psi Alpha Ready for Pledges in September

By Lori Bastien

Move over, Beta Upsilon Delta! There are some new kids on the block and they're called Beta Psi Alpha-St. Joseph's first fraternity, and they will be joining the ranks of college activities in September of 2007.

The four founders of Beta Upsilon Delta, Kelvin Augustin, Mike Barthelemy, Schaeffer Charles and Christian Jocelyn, had a dream of being part of the Greek system. They enlisted Director of Student Counseling Frank LaTerra to be their moderator and turned their dream into a reality.

The newly formed fraternity will start with seven members as they strive to make their mark on campus and form lifelong friendships amongst the membership.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" said Kelvin Augustin. "Yes I am, in the context of our fraternity," he added.

Not only is a fraternity a new experience for the male students, but also for their adviser, since Frank LaTerra did not pledge a fraternity as an undergraduate.

"These young men are very responsible and willing to take this journey together with me, so I am glad to be part of it," said Mr. LaTerra.

Say the word fraternity and it con-

jure up images of *Animal House*, wild toga parties, intense 'sweat lines' and often brutal physical hazing.

But Beta Psi Alpha vows to completely dissociate itself with those traditional views of fraternity life.

They will stress pledge education, learning about the Greek system, and community service as the backbone of their fraternity.

"I am a lifelong member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity," said Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications. "My time spent as an active member and later as a chapter adviser were amongst the most rewarding and happiest of my life. I envy these young men, just starting out and learning about brotherhood," he added.

Beta Psi Alpha is open to any ethnicity or race, so anyone is entitled to pledge. The pledgship period will be a one to two month period during which time, pledges will build and secure the trust of the members of the fraternity by participating in the group's community service projects.

"I feel this is a great step forward in SJC history," said founding member Schaeffer Charles. "It gives the men of SJC an opportunity to make their mark not only in our school, but in the community," he added.

One anticipated community service project will be to work with the Big Brother Program. The Big Brother and Big Sister program is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States.

The program has provided one-to-one youth services for more than a century. Numerous famous athletes as well as individuals from all walks of life have been Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Big Brothers mentor children from ages 6 through 16 and develop positive relationships that have a lasting impact upon the lives of these young people.

"I did some research and it shows that not a lot of men volunteer compared to women," said Kelvin Augustin. "This program will enable us to do something very valuable for others," he added.

Beta Psi Alpha also plans on some joint service projects with Beta Upsilon Delta.

"I think a fraternity at SJC is a good fit in a school like this, because it can bring together our small male population," said Christian Jocelyn.

The first fraternity rush will be in September and it is hoped that incoming freshman will be eager to be a part of the brand new Beta Psi Alpha fraternity.



Mike Barthelemy, Schaeffer Charles, Christian Jocelyn



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

Talking Up "Talk Radio" on Broadway

There's a new buzz on Broadway with early talk of a Best Actor Tony already being in the bag. That award would go to Liev Schreiber, whose remarkable performance in Eric Bogosian's *Talk Radio* has made him the talk of the town.

The show, playing at the Longacre Theater, opened on February 25 to very positive reviews, particularly for Bogosian. Directed by long-time Broadway veteran and Tony Award winner Robert Fall, the production is a revival of Bogosian's play that first went up in the 1980s.

The play focuses upon a confrontational and occasionally offensive talk show host named Barry Champlain. With his show rumored to be going nation-wide, Champlain is faced with a dilemma: will his popularity be increased, or will he become a target of greater scrutiny on a national scale?

Champlain is played by Schreiber, who was last seen in the revival of David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*. His film credits include such diverse vehicles as *Scream* and *The Manchurian Candidate*. He is also a frequent star in Shakespearian productions.

The acerbic Champlain is a lonely, drug-addicted Juvenalian character who uses sarcasm in order to hide his own massive depression and personal demons. He has an off and on-again girlfriend who tries to help him but he does not seem to want others to love or care about him.

Much of the humor stems from the parade of outlandish callers with whom Champlain must deal, such as the transvestite woman who is terrified of her garbage disposal or the fraudulent caller who claims his 17 year old girlfriend is overdosing on drugs.

At all times throughout the play, Champlain is on an emotional high-or low—that grabs the audience and drags it along with him until their psyches merge.

The minimal staging—a radio booth at the station—works well because it does not distract from the play of emotions that emanate from every character.

No costume changes, no intermission. Just terrific acting from the entire company. Think of it as 'theater in the raw.' See it—you won't regret it.

And here's a note for you autograph seekers out there. Have you ever wanted to have your Playbill signed, but were too afraid to ask?

Well, don't be! I've waited at the stage door on a number of occasions and have had the opportunity of meeting some of Broadway's finest performers such as Vanessa Williams, Bernadette Peters and even the aforementioned Liev Schreiber.

It's always good to have a Sharpie ready to hand to your favorite star. Most of them will be very gracious and obliging—and impressed that you waited so long for them to come out of the theater.

Juniors Celebrate on Their Night

By John Castaldo

Life is a series of rites of passage, and for the members of the junior class, one of those rites took place on March 8th when the group collectively celebrated Junior Ring Night.

The event was held in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

Before the evening festivities, the class rings were blessed in a special afternoon ceremony in the college chapel. Each ring is customized by the student to reflect his or her personal preferences or activities in which they participated at St. Joseph's. The ring dealer for the college is Josten's, Inc.

The auditorium was decorated with red tablecloths and balloons with large 2008s imprinted on them hovering over the refreshment table. The centerpiece of the dessert table was a huge sheet cake with white icing and the words "SJC Junior Night" written on it.

The evening was planned under the auspices of the Office of Student Life and the Junior Class Committee which consisted of Mike Barthelemy, Eurydice Bonaventure, Schaeffer Charles, Christina Contessa, Adam mace, Yolanda McDonald, Svetlana Medvedeva, Andrea Rosado and Cassandra Seide.

As Junior Representative, Mike Barthelemy greeted his classmates and their parents and friends in brief opening remarks.

The keynote speaker during the evening was Professor Diane Sherlip

of the Psychology Department. She congratulated the class for their accomplishments in life thus far and talked of how much yet there would be to do in the future.

Dr. Susan Hudec, Dean of Students, also spoke to the class stressing their achievements and the difference that their efforts have made to the SJC community.

Student reflection was provided by Allyson Putre who discussed her career at St. Joe's from freshman year up to the present. Central to her remarks was the aspect of forming life-long friendships and serving others through activities such as the letter writing campaign for St. Jude's Children's Hospital which

was conducted by her sorority, Beta Upsilon Delta.

"Junior Class Night made me realize that three special years have gone by and that the memories of all four years here at SJC will stay with me in the future," said Cindy Mei.

Class rings and gifts were distributed by Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Co-curricular Programs, assisted by Dr. Hudec and Mike Barthelemy.

Though not that many students have purchased rings in the last few years (the cost has grown prohibitive), it still has a special meaning.

"The ring symbolized what I have done for the last three years," said Christopher Cosme.



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Class of '06 and SJC Employee Samantha Saines

Alumni Spotlight: Samantha Saines '06

By Tara Vafiadou

There's nothing like home-grown talent, and so once again St. Joseph's has tapped into the ranks of recent alumni to fill a position on the Brooklyn campus.

Meet Samantha Saines, Class of 2007. Shortly after her graduation, Samantha began work as the newest staff member in the St. Joseph's College Alumni Office.

The Alumni Association of SJC helps keep graduates in contact with their alma mater, involving them in on-campus activities and fundraising and recruiting them to serve as mentors for current students.

As the newest cog in the Alumni Office machinery, Samantha serves in various capacities. She helps plan events for the alumni, keeps track of and updates a data base concerning their whereabouts and helps engage students at the school with alumni who can provide information about careers and graduate programs.

She also aids current students by informing them of the services that the Alumni Office can provide for them such as making connections through the new Net Community.

"It's a great opportunity and one career choice that more students should consider," said Ms. Saines when asked

how she felt about St. Joseph's offering job opportunities to graduates.

Prior to graduation, a job opening in the Alumni Office occurred and Ms. Saines took the opportunity to apply, knowing little about the specifics of the job.

"I was just comfortable as a student here and really was eager for the chance to stay on as an employee," she said. "I was already familiar with the atmosphere here, so joining the staff made for an easy transition," she added.

As a sociology major, Ms. Saines' original plans for post-graduation were to attend graduate school full time and then enter the field of social work. She was resolved to working part time while attending graduate school, but after the job opportunity arose at SJC, she reversed her course and became a part time graduate student and a full time employee.

She is now completing her Master's degree at Brooklyn College and is deciding whether or not she wants to pursue a doctorate at this time. She is scheduled to receive her Master's degree in December of 2007.

Ms. Saines' senior thesis at SJC was on the subject of mental health counseling and this is the field she would eventually like to enter.

"This has been a great learning experience for me," said Ms. Saines. "I enjoy getting to know other alums who are in different fields and different age categories. I also still take advantage of knowing my professors and getting advice from them," she added.

Working with alumni and seeing their success stories had given her the ability to advise current SJC seniors and help guide their future decisions.

Ms. Saines' busy schedule is very reminiscent of her undergraduate days when she was the editor-in-chief of both *Footprints 2007* and the inaugural edition of *Calliope: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. She was also a staff writer for *The Spirit* and a member of the English Club.

"One thing I would encourage students to do is not to be afraid to branch out of their 'comfort zones' of their majors or planned career choices. There is so much to experience in the job world and it pays to take advantage of the best career presented to you, even if it is not the one you expected to enter into."

Now a fixture in the Alumni Office, Ms. Saines hopes to advance, keep close contact with her classmates, and bring many more alumni into close association with St. Joseph's College.



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

Waging Intellectual Warfare

Greetings to the Right, Left, Center—and all those in-between. My name is Michael Labeit and I am the new political columnist for *The Spirit*.

I want you to know right from the beginning that the duty of this political column is to consistently uphold American values of reason and individual rights. This is not just some hollow phrase. I am not some idealist collegiate BS'er. I am an enlisted member of the United States Army Reserve and can be called to overseas service at any time. For this reason, I have a vested interest in philosophy and current events.

So rest assured, this column will not mislead or deceive, but will unearth the objective truth and safeguard the values necessary for mankind's proper survival.

Without a doubt, one of the most compulsory roles in a society is that of the intellectuals. It is the intellectuals who establish the major social trends and philosophies of their times and are directly responsible for the many philosophical ideals of today.

The West, for instance, and her values of reason, individualism, rights, liberty, egoism and capitalism derive directly from Aristotle, Aquinas, Locke, Adam Smith, Montesquieu, Ayn Rand and the Founding Fathers. The Middle East and her values of unswerving faith, collectivism, theocracy, despotism, coercive altruism and religious fanaticism derive directly from her various clerics and mystics, past and present.

America is the greatest nation on Earth because of her values. However, a new group of intellectuals has challenged these Western values. You have heard of them before—the likes of Avram Noam Chomsky and Ward Churchill. The new left-wing

academics are conflict and why it has thus far lasted promoting doctrines such as moral relativism and multiculturalism, ideologies that base morality on individual interpretation and state that all cultures, whether industrial or primordial, are equally moral and valuable.

Universities have become breeding grounds for egalitarianism, "social Justice" and "positive liberty," doctrines that hold that equality must incorporate equal outcomes (income).

According to these new academics, America and the West should be denounced, not exalted, for the cosmic wealth and technological advancement it has created—self-guilt must follow individual productivity and innovation.

These intellectuals would have us transfer values "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." They would have us designate human-provided services as 'rights.' These professors would have us convert America from an individualist nation to a collectivist one, where true individual rights are not guaranteed, but only *allowed* by the government, which may promptly revoke them by whim.

America and the West is under philosophical attack by corrupt, morally deprived cranks. It is the obligation of those who value freedom from coercion to discredit the utterly decadent philosophical trends of today.

By no means is this battle exclusive to the left-wing. The New Right claims America was founded upon Christianity and democracy, which is also demonstrably false.

Who will man the barriers and defend our ideals and rights? The left? The right? The center? I can only speak for myself: I will. Each edition—right here. Be here with me and together we will see what we can accomplish.

Seniors Celebrate Nearing the End

By Christina Ament

It's almost that time for seniors to take their final walk down the aisle to receive their SJC diplomas, but before that happens, it will be time for the seniors to celebrate who they are and all the hard work they have done during the past four years.

This year's Senior Night will take place on Friday, May 11th at 7 PM. The ceremony will begin in the Tuohy Hall auditorium and will last for about ninety minutes. During that time, there will be musical performances, departmental awards will be presented, and there will be a special presentation of *Who's Who in American Colleges*.

Also included in the Tuohy Hall segment will be keynote speakers from the faculty, a Senior Montage and a Power Point presentation displaying pictures of the Class of 2007.

Following the ceremony, a reception will follow on the mall in front of the Dillon Center. Seniors and their guests will be treated to a fully catered meal including desserts and beverages, including adult beverages for those of legal age (and who can prove it).

On the mall, seniors will be receiving their caps and gowns, graduation tickets, gifts, and of course, their copy of *Footprints 2007*, the senior yearbook.

Each year, Senior Night has a theme which is chosen by the Senior Night Committee. This year's theme is "In My Stars" and it will be reflected in the decorations and gifts that the seniors receive. The dominant colors

in the decorating scheme will be black and white.

The Senior Night Committee is headed by Senior Representatives Qi Bin Li and Raquel Martinez and its members are Christopher Burke, Jennifer Capellan, Natalie Fascianella, Stephen Klein, Deva Ramlal and Gurgit Singh. They plan every detail of the evening from music to planning the menu.

Bin spoke about the success of last year's Senior Night which featured a tropical Caribbean theme and wants this year's to surpass it in attendance and excellence. It was one of the reasons that he ran for Senior Representative.

"I always wanted to do something special that I can remember for the rest of my life," said Bin. "By be-

coming Senior Representative, I hope I was able to create activities that all seniors found special," he added.

Though there are only 97 seniors in the graduating class, Bin expects about 200 people to attend Senior Night, and he hopes that of the 200, over 60 will be actual seniors.

Since the event is free to seniors and their friends and family, cost will not be a deterrent to attendance.

The committee expressed hopes that all members of the senior class would come to Senior Night.

"I've got a little case of the jitters about Senior Night," said Bin, "but I am sure that everything will work out fine. I just want to congratulate all the members of the Class of 2007 and say that it's been a pleasure serving them."



Class of '06ers at their tropical Senior Night

Job Fair Shows How to Open Employment Doors

100+ Firms Attend "Bridges to Success"

By Shifat Noor

College students envision themselves as travelers headed down the road to success and the achieving of the American Dream: independence, a car, maybe even the house of their dreams. But before that all happens, it will be necessary to find a job. Fortunately, St. Joseph's College participates in several job fairs during the year, one of which was the annual "Bridges to Success" fair.

This year's "Bridges to Success" was held on Wednesday, March 14 at the College of Staten Island's Sports and Recreation Center. The job fair is a collaborative event between six colleges: St. Joseph's, St. John's University, St. Francis College, Wagner College, Brooklyn College and CSI.

More than 100 companies were represented at the event and offered full time, part time, summer and paid and non paid internship positions to students. Some of the companies represented were JP Morgan Chase, Target, Abercrombie and Fitch, New York Life Insurance, NYU Medical Center and Hess Oil Company. Government agencies such as the FBI, the DEA, the INS and various other law enforcement agencies were also represented.

School districts from New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties and New Jersey also interviewed prospective candidates for teaching positions.

The job fair was open to all

undergraduates, regardless of their year in school. Students who attended the job fair arranged interviews with companies and agencies that they believed were compatible with their majors.

Academic departments present at the job fair included Business Management, Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Information Technology, Education, Communication, English, History, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. For each of these majors, there were matching companies and government bureaus looking for job candidates.

"The job fair is an opportunity for students to meet with different companies, to network and to apply or interview for internships," said Frank LaTerra, Director of Counseling and Career Development at St. Joseph's College.

Like most job fairs, "Bridges to Success" gave students direct contact with future employers through employment and personnel managers. Because of this, the SJC students came prepared with resumes and were prepared to 'sell' themselves to those individuals who make the hiring decisions.

The companies interviewed many students on the spot and offered them follow up interview dates at the next higher level of employment screening.

"Students should attend job fairs to experience interviewing and see the real world aspect of how competi-

tive and overwhelming it can be to find a job or internship," said Lily Shmulevich, Employment Counselor and assistant to Frank LaTerra.

Job fairs are particularly important because students learn how to make a strong first impression in a limited amount of time. This is a skill that must be learned, as must the technique of thinking rapidly on one's feet.

With hundreds of students vying for a limited number of positions, "Bridges to Success" gave students the chance to put their best feet forward. The SJC Career and Counseling Office provides year round guidance in the development of interviewing skills so that students attend job fairs and interviews prepared for the types of questions they can expect to hear. Mr. LaTerra and Ms. Shmulevich also provide invaluable tips on how to dress and what types of questions to ask.

A year-long series of workshops is conducted by the Career and Counseling Office on topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills, cover letter writing and presenting oneself in the most positive light.

As summer quickly approaches, students may be in need of jobs or internships. They are encouraged to visit the Career and Counseling Office in Tuohy Hall to find out about present openings.



SJC Counselors at "Bridges to Success" Job Fair



THE TECH HEAD

BY ROBERT MARRIELLO

COMPUTERS: WHAT YOU REALLY NEED

Greetings everyone! This is the Tech Head here with another installment of chat and facts that every gearhead and wannabe can use.

Let's talk about computers this time around, shall we? When most people buy computers, they usually either go by what the salesman thinks may be best for them, or by which machine they like the most. With any luck, by the time you are done reading this, you will have a better idea of what to look for in a computer when you go to make your purchase.

The first thing you're going to want to determine is whether to get a laptop or a desktop. In general, there isn't much difference in their capabilities, but because of some of the details, a wise decision will be required. If you are planning on doing work on the go and require certain programs and settings, then you'll want a laptop.

But if all you need is a computer for music, video, editing, work or just going on the internet, then you'll want a desktop. Laptops can be useful when it comes time to show a presentation at a meeting or when you have only a limited amount of space. But if you aren't careful, laptops can get damaged by jarring and although desktops face the same problem, they aren't normally expected to be toted from home to the office and back.

Another thing you must think about is the hard drive storage. Much like with flash drives, different people need different amounts of space, and although the businessman could be fine with 40 gigabytes of storage, someone who collects music like Bill Gates collects money might need as much as 100 gigs or more.

Depending upon which type of console you select, the ability to enlarge this storage capacity can change. It's possible to get more hard drive space on a laptop, but it generally requires changing the hard drive all together. On a desktop, if it isn't already maxed out, you can have extra hard drive added on if you realize your media collection is getting too big.

A third thing you will need to think about is the processors: video,

audio and standard computer processor.

The processor is where the computer's work is done. There are a lot of processors out there: single processors, dual processors and lots of manufacturers to choose from. The whole world is *not* run by the Intel Corporation. A good and knowledgeable salesperson can help you tailor the processor to your specific needs.

The final thing you will need to think about is the operating system. Aside from some of the lesser known ones such as Linux, Solaris and TUNES (yes, there's one called TUNES with all capital letters), all you really need to do is choose between Microsoft's OS and Apple's OS. If you are the type of person that enjoys music to an almost unnatural level, or you have aspirations of recording and editing videos to put on YouTube, you'll probably want a computer with the Apple OS. But if you want to do spreadsheets, make Power Point presentations, or have just gotten acclimated to the computers you use in school, then you'll want a computer with Windows. The XP operating system is still good, but it will gradually be replaced by the newer Windows Vista.

Now, it's time for Fact or Fake. My last column itself was the Fact or Fake, and the four choices you had for it were A) The Census Bureau lost over 1000 of its laptops, B) Steve Jobs was criticizing the Zuni, C) Macs are becoming more like Windows and D) PS3's shouldn't advertise consoles they wouldn't be able to get. The fake one is about Macs. They are staying the way they are.

This month's F & F is based upon the Discovery Channel's show, *2057*, which shows what technology will be like in the future. Here are your options for which will have a longer way to go before becoming a reality: A) A car capable of flight, B) 3-D holographic images that are projected in thin air and C) transmitting amounts of data equal to that of all the world's books by laser across the world in seconds.

The answer will be in the next edition. Till then, this is the Tech Head logging off.

Leadership Brunch Acknowledges Campus Movers and Shakers

By Shifat Noor

For campus organizations to succeed, they must have strong leadership—someone at the top who can manage all the details and pull the members together to work for a common goal.

These are the young leaders who were celebrate at the Second Annual Leadership Recognition Brunch which was held on Sunday, April 29th at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Brooklyn.

Prior to last year, club officials and members were honored during the Annual Dinner Dance, but thanks to the Office of Student Life, a separate event was created to credit those organization leaders whose dedication makes St. Joseph's a more vibrant and exciting campus.

The Leadership Recognition Brunch focuses specifically upon club involvement at the college. Besides students, parents, friends and faculty members attended the event to show their appreciation for the young men and women of St. Joseph's who make things happen.

"The purpose of the Leadership Recognition Brunch is to thank all students who gave time and energy and those who went above and beyond," said Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Student Services.

Having such an event not only supports the efforts and achieve-

ments of current leaders, but it serves as motivation and inspiration for club members to step up and become leaders themselves.

"I was recently elected as Secretary of the Globespotters and I am glad that I attended the Leadership Brunch. It's a great way to be honored and recognized for all the work we put into a club," said sophomore Surbhi Dalal.

The Leadership Recognition Brunch was a day for everyone in SJC activities to be honored. Several different awards were given out during the ceremony which included awards for the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of a club.

Incoming and outgoing Student Government and Campus Activities Board members were also acknowledged during the ceremony for their service to the college during the 2006-2007 school year.

Notable awards such as the President's Award and the Dean's Award were given to students who provided exceptional service to the college and community.

Additionally, deserving SJC athletes were given awards for their performance on varsity teams.

This year, a new award, the "Emerging Leader Award," was to be presented to a freshman. This is designed to mold an underclassman in

to a leader at a very early stage in hopes that their further service will have an influence upon the college.

This year's nominees for the "Club of the Year" award were Beta Upsilon Delta, the Caribbean Students Association and the Royal Steppers.

Each club on campus was permitted to nominate up to three student leaders to be honored. In some cases, making those decisions proved to be difficult.

"My editors did a wonderful job on publications this year," said Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner. "I could not possibly recognize one without providing similar recognition for the others," he added.

Students representing all four years were in attendance at the brunch. "The Leadership Recognition Brunch actually motivates me to become an official or a beneficial member in a club," said sophomore Agnes Ostasz. "After a year of serving the college and community, the brunch is a great reward," she added.

The Leadership Recognition Brunch, though only in its second year, is becoming a popular tradition on the SJC campus. As more and more clubs are added to the roster of campus activities, new leaders will emerge and gain recognition at the end of each school year.



S. Elizabeth Hill with new Presidential Scholar



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

Music on Vinyl: The Old New Way to Go

Recently in the news I have come across multiple articles heralding the return of the vinyl record album. I'd like to talk about this triumphant return for you and show you some of the implications.

In the late 1980s, the Compact Disc (CD) completely supplanted the record album as the dominant mode of recorded entertainment. Vinyl had managed to outlast 8-tracks and cassette tapes, but the CD, with its virtually unlimited life-span and ability to hold more songs per album, signaled the end of the vinyl era. Or so it seemed.

Currently, we are living in the era of the iPod. Digital music players and the phenomenon of music downloading have revolutionized the music industry and society itself. Not a day goes by in which I don't see someone with an iPod.

Having an iPod is fashionable. Gone are the days of portable CD players and in many ways, CDs. Rejected as overpriced in comparison to 99 cent downloadable music from iTunes or \$5.99 unlimited music downloads from Yahoo, CDs are going the way of the 8-track and cassette tape.

So where does vinyl come into play?

As of late, vinyl records are making a comeback. Many buyers have begun to realize that vinyl records, though they do not last as long as CDs, have an obviously better sound than the CD.

For example, I collect Sinatra CDs and record albums. I have "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning" on both vinyl and CD. While both allow me to hear Frank Sinatra's wonderful and moving voice, it is the vinyl record that makes it seem as if Sinatra is in my living room singing just to me. Vinyl record albums record music as it was meant to be heard.

You may think that the fact that Sinatra recorded in an era where vi-

nyl was the only recording medium is the reason that music was meant to be heard that way. Then how do you explain bands such as Jet releasing vinyl records of their most recent albums?

One musical reporter stated that, "Vinyl is loved." I agree. Those people who have lived through the vinyl era love it and cheer its return.

They praise its superior sound. The amazing thing is that young musicians of the post-vinyl age are now opting for vinyl.

For the past two years I have collected vinyl records, but prior to that time I would dismiss vinyl as something that disappeared with the typewriter or the transistor radio or the reel-to-reel tape.

The first time I heard vinyl, I was hooked and now I boast a collection of over 250 record albums. Hey, you can buy them used for as little as \$2.00 each. I bought "In the Wee Small Hours" new on CD for \$14.50 and used on vinyl for \$2.00. Which would you buy?

Granted, artists are asking over \$25.00 for a new vinyl record, but that is because it is a novelty. In time those prices will plummet. But the superior sound quality really makes it worth it.

On the flip side, a good record player (if you can find one) only costs about \$110, compared to \$300 for a good CD player.

Vinyl may never be the king of recorded music again, but it just may be a major player in the industry. I may be wrong, but if I were a betting man.....

Till next time!

MY TOP FIVE MAY ALBUMS

Last Man Standing—Jerry Lee Lewis
Continuum—John Mayer

Duets: Tony Bennett

Future Love/Sex Sounds—Justin Timberlake

Ray Sings, Basie Swings—Ray Charles and the Count Basie Band

Incoming Students Honored at Brunch

Presidential Scholars and Scholastic Achievers Feted

By Shifat Noor

Every year, St. Joseph's College hosts its annual Scholarship Reception Brunch to honor and appreciate those students who have received scholarships to attend the college because of their outstanding academic achievements in high school. This year's brunch was held at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Brooklyn on April 1.

The brunch affords an opportunity for the new scholarship students to meet current students and faculty members who can answer the many questions they have about their undergraduate education.

The Scholarship Reception Brunch was the idea of Vice-president for Enrollment Management Theresa LaRocca Meyer. It has been a regular spring event for the last six years and each year seems to grow in scope as the size of the incoming freshman class increases.

"The focus of the brunch is honoring the Presidential Scholarship and Scholastic Achievement Award recipients," said Janine Faraj, Executive Assistant to the Vice-president for Enrollment Management.

The Presidential Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship awarded to students who have a minimum high school average of 90 and a minimum com-

bined SAT score of 1100. The Scholastic Achievement Award is a scholarship that awards up to \$7,000 per year to students with an 85 high school average and SAT scores of 1000.

A highlight of the brunch was that during the ceremony, each high school student that was awarded a scholarship had his or her achievements recognized in a Power Point presentation. Their extracurricular activities and community service were stressed along with their high grades.

This year's speakers were chosen from a variety of areas in the college community. These speakers included college president S. Elizabeth Hill, Dr. David Seppala-Holtzman, Professor of Mathematics, S. Margaret Buckley, Academic Dean, Dr. Mary Teatum, President of the Alumni Association, and Dan Ristea, a current St. Joseph's College Honors student.

"The Scholarship Reception is both helpful and interesting," said Ristea. "It is helpful because it improves the students' self-confidence and self-esteem by rewarding them for all their hard work during high school. As an incoming student, I remember that one of the most interesting parts was learning about

the other scholarship students and their accomplishments. It made me realize how different, yet self-determined, everybody was," he added.

Along with the faculty members, the Student Ambassadors Club was at the reception to give students' perspectives on the college and encouraging those who planned on attending. They stressed the many academic and extracurricular opportunities there are at the college for the highly-motivated student.

Michael Learmond, moderator of the Student Ambassadors Club, stated that out of 107 students awarded Presidential Scholarships, 32 attended the reception. Out of 93 students awarded Scholastic Achievement Awards, 40 attended. This is a significant number of students who actually plan on making St. Joseph's College their choice.

Each year, St. Joseph's College awards thousands of dollars to high school students accepted for admission. Last year's freshman class was the largest in the history of the school. Based upon the number of students awarded scholarships at the Scholarship Reception Brunch this year, no one will be surprised if the Class of 2011 breaks that record.

SJC Students Learn of Darfur Genocide

By Christina Ament

Though a small college, the students of St. Joseph's make many attempts to help the world in a wide variety of ways. One such way was what several students did to reach out to their fellow students to help stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

On March 1, during common hour in the Tuohy Hall auditorium, Ivan Nichols, Yolanda McDonald and Gurjit Singh, representatives of the Political Action Club, Campus Ministry and Outreach and the Student Legal Society conducted a lecture with a Power Point presentation on the current crisis in Darfur.

The three leaders discussed how the people of Darfur are experiencing "deep poverty, homelessness, government sponsored terror, Ganjaweed terrorists, drought and the destruction of towns, food and water supplies." The conditions have reached genocidal proportions.

"Civilians are being bombed, millions are at risk of being murdered and raped, there is mass starvation and children are being abducted and sold as slaves," said Yolanda McDonald.

As part of the presentation, Gurjit Singh discussed the origin of the conflict and why it has thus far lasted four years. "There is an ethnic conflict in Darfur between two distinct groups and this has led to the attempted extermination and ongoing genocide that we read of in the media

today," he said.

Organizations such as the United Nations, the African Union and NATO have been unsuccessful in their attempts to curtail the genocide. No single nation can commit sufficient forces to stop the wholesale slaughter.

For this reason, the students stressed the importance of other students becoming aware of the crisis and doing what they can to end it. They suggested that individuals should send letters to their

congressmen, voice their concerns with friends and family and offer donations to a human life agency which can provide some measure of relief for the Darfur citizens.

They also advocated visiting www.saveDarfur.org to get a graphic view of what is occurring in the Sudan.













It is the belief of these three students that if enough individuals band together, they can in fact make a difference.



Gurjit Singh Lectures on Genocide in Darfur

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

Do you vote in SJC campus elections?

	I vote because I like to take advantage of the fact that I can be a participant. I vote to support my fellow students to make SJC better. —Mike Multari
	Yes, I vote. I think that everyone on campus should vote in these elections. —Trevor Plass
	No, I do not vote. For now I don't know what each of the candidates can contribute to the college. —Mirljinda Krivea
	Yes, I vote. I am a student here and the decision affects me directly, so I want to be a part of it by voting. —Christopher Cosme
	Yes, I vote because I want to help make this school a better place. —Valerie Singh
	Yes, I vote because I think it will benefit the school to be a part of the process. —Dane Bruce
	Yes, I vote because I hope that whoever wins will wind up helping all the students at St. Joe's. —Christina Foy
	Yes, I vote because it makes a difference. What you want to get done gets done if you vote for the right person. —Kelvin Augustin
	Yes, I vote because sometimes my friends ask me to, so I do. —Alejandro Osborne
	I do vote in campus elections because I want to make a change in what happens at SJC. —Chad Crossman
	Vote? Of course I vote, because I believe it is my duty to vote in any election for which I am eligible. —Cassandra Seide
	I vote because I like to get involved in student affairs on campus. This is certainly one way I can do it. —Christian Branch

Battle of Bands Rocks SJC

By Christina Ament

The tradition of expanding cultural offerings at St. Joseph's College continued this spring with the resurrection of a once-popular event: the Battle of the Bands.

The auditorium of Tuohy Hall was the scene on the evening of March 30th for a concert by a group of bands that offered a wide variety of rock music including metal, punk, alternative and classic.

Five bands appeared during the show, competing for a cash prize. The bands that performed were "Remaining Time," "Meridian Drive," "From a Lacerated Sky," "Never Say Die," and "Cherry Phoenix."

The bands were invited to play as a result of being known by members of the CAB and the Gaelic Society. CAB Off-Campus Events Director Chrissy Contessa knew of the first four bands, and Steven Klein, president of the Gaelic Society was familiar with the work of "Cherry Phoenix."

The bands performed in front of a large audience and their work was judged by Adam Mace, Amanda Gavigan and Mike Multari. The three judges were selected because they

each represent a different aspect of the performing arts: Chapel Players, Choral Society and Jazz Ensemble, respectively.

There were two rounds to the competition with each group being rated on the basis of personality, style of performance, originality of performance, sound quality and overall performance. Each judge also had the opportunity to write comments about the songs that were selected. Two bands were eliminated in the first round: "Remaining Time," and "From a Lacerated Sky." Not every member of the audience was pleased with the judges' decisions. Concerning "From a Lacerated Sky," junior Mike Barthelemy said, "This band was the best so far. They were all energetic and enthusiastic and all the bands that played had talent."

Despite their elimination, John Lucarelli, lead guitarist of "From a Lacerated Sky," said, "It was awesome to perform. I think it was the best performance we have done so far."

The other three bands were equally confident about their performances. Members of "Never Say Die," noted collectively, "I think we did good. We'll make it to the next round."

John E. Hanley of "Cherry Phoenix" said, "This is our first performance with our new singer and I think we performed well."

After each of the remaining bands played its set of songs, "Meridian Drive" was declared the winner and took home the cash prize of \$200.00.

"Never Say Die" came in second place and received \$100.00.

"This is one of the nicest venues we've played," said Hanley, and though his band did not win, he said that they would enjoy returning to St. Joseph's to play again.

"Never Say Die" was in agreement with Hanley about the politeness of the crowd, but said they could have been more enthusiastic. They felt that if there had not been seats, it would have led to more of a crowd response.

For a ticket price of a mere \$8.00 and \$10.00, the audience was treated to an entire evening of rock music, a mere fraction of what bands charge when they play in larger arenas.

CAB would like to see a Battle of the Bands become an annual tradition at St. Joe's and with the success of the first year's show, it is likely that there will be another one next spring.

Child Study Majors Get Teaching Tips

SJC Alumnus Lectures on Problems in Special Ed

By Tara Vafiadou

A large number of St. Joseph's College students who go into the field of education will at one time or another find themselves faced with teaching Special Education Students. It can be challenging, rewarding and difficult, all at the same time.

To assist the education students with their professional development and awareness, the Child Study Department invited Mr. Mark Raymond, an alumnus of the Patchogue campus, and current Special Education teacher, to share his experiences with students.

The common hour event of February 22 proved to be an enlightening one for Child Study students who picked up helpful pointers on a wide variety of Special Education topics.

Mr. Raymond shared anecdotes and techniques that have proven to be effective in his nineteen year career as a Special Education teacher. One of the insights he gave to the Child Study students was about the programs and technology that the Department of Education has permitted to be used with children with disabilities.

He explained that using games, gestures, visuals and physical objects to teach are all accepted forms of communication that teachers may turn to when dealing with children who have difficulties in standard forms of communication.

He demonstrated a new computer program that allows children to pick words on a grid to make sentences.

The program then types out the

sentences and reads them back to the student.

Although Mr. Raymond acknowledged the usefulness of such a program, he admitted that doing the actual programing can be very time-consuming as well as costly.

Another useful and simpler suggestion that Mr. Raymond spoke about was the use of a technique called "May Johnsons." This involved two strips of paper, one with words listed down, and the other with corresponding pictures. Children would have to match the word to its picture. A positive of this technique is that it is self-correcting; students can see what mistakes they have made and find the solution themselves.

"It was interesting to learn how Special Education teachers used technology in the classroom," said Kaynetha Hall, a sophomore and Child Study major.

Mr. Raymond also stressed the importance of diversity amongst teachers today. He explained that forty years ago, if a person had a lisp or a foreign accent, they would be denied a license as a teacher. Today, there are many teachers from widely diverse backgrounds with many language accents to be found in the ranks of teachers in the New York City Department of Education.

He suggested that because of such diversity, barriers may develop in the classroom for handicapped children.

Thus, using visual programs gives children the opportunity to learn the

correct way.

"It was very informative to learn techniques that future teachers can use in Special Education classrooms," said Elizabeth Wolf, another Child Study major.

Mr. Raymond believes that teaching is a privilege and is not a profession for everyone. Anyone can become certified, he notes, but it takes a dedicated person to really excel.

According to Mr. Raymond the education system neither wants nor needs teachers who will come to their classes everyday dreading teaching because they will be unsuccessful and ineffective.

Another barrier that new teachers will face comes from parents, who may resist new techniques for teaching their children. Mr. Raymond says that such parents will be difficult to convince, but in time they will acknowledge the fact that educators only want what is best for their children.

Mr. Raymond concluded by expressing his opinion about the education program at St. Joseph's College. He said that SJC is "the best kept secret" in the education world of New York City. He left the audience with the feeling that Child Study majors are receiving the very best education and preparation as well as experience of any school in the area.

The school's liberal arts program plus its intensive training for young teachers leaves St. Joseph's College second to none, he said.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

DID THE METS SCORE BIG LAST WINTER?

Well sports fans, I'll have to be honest. This time around baseball really caught me by surprise. It seems like just yesterday I was weeping as Carlos Beltran was caught looking in game seven of the National League Championship Series. I don't usually get caught up in football and hockey so much as to forget about baseball, but this year before I knew it, Spring training was half over. Don't even mention the off season; that was a complete blur. Come to think of it, it appears as if Omar Minaya was suffering from the same time lapse as I was.

Over the off season, it was as if the Mets lost a great deal more than they gained. Taking an especially hard hit was the bullpen and starting rotation.

In the bullpen alone, the Mets lost a crucial stopper in Chad Bradford, a valuable longer-reliever in Darren Oliver, an adequate but little used reliever in Roberto Hernandez, and two relievers who have had their share of cups of coffee in the bigs in Royce Ring and Heath Bell.

Flying somewhat under the radar is the loss of Guillermo Mota, who was suspended fifty games for the use of performance-enhancing drugs. By no means are any of these losses tragic. This is, unless they are not adequately replaced.

Let's crunch some numbers to see if they have been. I know! I know! The season isn't played out on paper, but who says there can't be a little fun in pretending it is.

Consider Scott Schoeneweis replacing Chad Bradford. Bradford, who ended the season with a 2.90 ERA and a record of 4-2, was known for coming into jams other pitchers had set up and getting out of them with the greatest ease. Whether Schoeneweis can do the same has yet to be determined. But one has to question Omar Minaya here, not so much with the acquisition of Schoeneweis, but with the departure of Bradford.

Bradford, a proven commodity, was signed away by the Baltimore Orioles with a three year deal worth

\$10.5 million. Schoeneweis was signed by the Mets for an almost identical contract of three years for \$10.8 million.

Bradford had proven himself as an important piece to the 2006 Mets team that was one win away from the World Series. Why, then, was he not worth the same money as Schoeneweis?

Also gone is quiet but effective long man, Darren Oliver. Although not nearly as crucial as the loss of Bradford, one must still question whether Oliver's replacement, most likely Jorge Sosa, will be satisfactory.

The other more minor losses are not nearly as important, although I am intrigued by the apparent discarding of Royce Ring, who was touted as a future star closer when he was acquired for Roberto Alomar a few years ago.

Keeping with the theme of pitching woes is the starting rotation. Pedro Martinez, recovering from rotator cuff surgery, won't be back until some time past the All-Star Break. Tom Glavine is old enough to be Jose Reyes's father. Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, whose age is almost as notorious for its flip-flopping as John Kerry, has been suffering from, among other minor ailments, neck pain. No one is crying over the losses of Victor Zambrano or Steve Trachsel, but the list of those who are fighting to replace them is longer than the Democrats' list of presidential candidates and just about as impressive, too.

To put it simply, the Mets rotation looks something like: Tom Glavine, Orlando Hernandez, John Maine, Oliver Perez and To Be Determined. I haven't seen such a stark difference in age since the nuptials of Mike Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Maybe it's me, but I don't think this lineup is causing any other teams in baseball to quake in their boots.

Omar knew what he was doing last year, so what other choice do we Met fans have but to give him the benefit of the doubt this time around too?

With that said ... whew, I feel like I had to do a lot of catching up for this article. Let's hope the Mets don't have that same feeling come mid-season.

Softballers Finish on Plus Note After Slow Start

By Christina Ament

It did not take long for the Lady Bears Softball Team to realize that the 2007 campaign would be a long and uphill struggle for a conference title.

The team spent spring training in Tucson, Arizona where after initial conditioning, they participated in the Tucson Invitational Games.

In five out of six games, the team was victimized by the 'mercy rule,' having fallen behind by huge margins early in the game, thus limiting the contests to only five innings.

But since that time, the team has rebounded strongly, posting a record of 8-1 including Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference victories over Brooklyn College, Marymount College and SUNY Purchase.

Varsity Coach and Athletic Director Frank Carbone is fielding a relatively young team. Last year, his squad lost its only three seniors: Kristin Healy, Lynette Reyes, and Laurie Hartwig. The current configuration includes five sophomores and four freshmen with one junior and three seniors.

New to the team are freshmen Julianne Basmagy, Ariel Bedeau, Erica Quick and Lauren

Schirippa. The returning seniors are Kristin Izzo and Carol Jeanne Kavanagh and Kaitlin O'Neill.

Also returning to the squad (but as a coach rather than a player) is Kristin Healy, one of the stars of the 2007 Lady Bears.

She has been playing softball for fifteen years and she feels that her knowledge and experience "can help these girls have a better understanding of the game."

Coaching, however, will be a challenging transition for her. "At St. Joe's I was used to being a leader on the field, but will now have to learn how to become a leader off the field from the sidelines," she said.

Last year the Lady Bear's posted a record of 18-13 (.583) and a HVWAC record of 7-0.

The seniors on the 2007 team are expected to be especially large contributors to team's success. Kaitlin O'Neill plays first base, Kristen Izzo catches and can also pitch and CJ Kavanagh can play shortstop, centerfield and also can pitch.

"The seniors will be able to give advice from many different angles of the field," said Healy. "As team

leaders, they will be very beneficial to the team," she added.

The team used spring training to work out the winter kinks and practice the fundamentals of the game.

"Arizona was the time for us to mingle and come together as a team the best that we can," said CJ Kavanagh.

The schedule is long and difficult with traditional rivals Mount Saint Vincent's and the College of Staten Island obstacles that must be overcome if the Lady Bears expect to win the conference crown.

Despite the slow start in Arizona, largely against teams that have the benefit of practicing all year round, confidence ran high amongst the Lady Bears.

"I definitely think that we are going to win the conference. We might have lost our seniors, but we have lots of new talent on this team," said senior Kristen Izzo.

The Lady Bears play their home games at Keyspan Field on the corner of Vandervoort Avenue and Maspeth Avenue. The team believes that a large and vocal representation of SJC students will be a great morale builder for the team.

Basketballers Bring Home Another Title

By Ashley Pucciarelli

Chalk up another big year for the SJC Men's Basketball Team as the Bears once again brought home conference honors.

After a sluggish beginning to the season, the team finished with a record of 21-11 which included a perfect 9-0 record at home.

This year, the Bears found themselves playing in two separate conferences. In the Hudson Valley Men's Athletic Conference, the team's record was 7-1 which was good enough for the regular season championship. In the conference tournament, however, they took a second place finish.

In the Eastern Atlantic Conference, the Bears did even better. They won the conference crown with an overall record of 7-1 and they also won the EAC tournament.

As a result of their season record, the SJC Bears received a number 2 seed in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association national tournament. There, against some of the finest small college competition in the nation, the team took one out of three games, losing to Hesser College (81-78) and Taylor University (84-60), before defeating New Hampshire Technical Institute by a score of 85-77.

Though senior and co-captain Mike Donnelly led the team in ten separate categories including points per game, scoring average and free throws made, this year's team was notable for the balance it had on offense.

For example, of the twelve man roster, only one player shot below .500 from the free throw line and five players averaged over 20 minutes per game.

In the playoffs, Donnelly scored 23 and 27 points in two of the team's three games. In the second game loss to Taylor, Chris Olaskiewicz tallied 17 for the Bears; he also had a game-high 8 rebounds. Ervin Maddox also sparked the offense scoring 19 points against Hesser and 15 against New Hampshire Tech. Head Coach Joe Cocozello (5th year) and his two assistants, Luke Caccavo (2nd year) and Nolan Adams (1st year), have put together an aggressive squad that has youth in its favor for the 2007-08 campaign.

With only two seniors on the team, Mike Donnelly and Lukasz Cygan, the mix of youth and experience that remains on the squad should make the Bears a major force in conference play for next season.

So its another season, another title for the SJC Bears. Bring on the 2007-08 season!



Kristin Izzo Smacks a Double



Yes! Two for Dane Bruce!

**Congratulations to the SJC
MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM
on Winning Another Title!**